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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,078	06/20/2003	Richard Rollin	1801/88	6850

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EXAMINER
ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3761	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/600,078	Applicant(s) ROLLIN ET AL.	
	Examiner C. Lynne Anderson	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 35-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8 February 2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8 February 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument that Silver '875 does not disclose an upper well and a lower well, it is noted that Silver discloses that the male connector fits snugly in the female component (see column 3, lines 62-66). The sealing surface 86 of the male connector, as shown in figure 24, has a greater diameter than the bottom end of the male connector. The stopper 88 limits the depth with which the male connector can be inserted into the female component (see column 5, lines 58-61). The male connector 54 is rigid, and therefore for the male connector to fit snugly within the female component 52, the female component must have interior walls that match the contour of the male connector (i.e. an upper well and a lower well, the upper well having a larger diameter than the lower well).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-37 and 35-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silver (5,797,875).

With respect to claims 1, 6, 35, and 40, Silver discloses an adapter 32, as shown in figure 1, connecting a vacuum source 24 to a breast shield 22. The adapter 32 comprises a housing 46, as shown in figure 2, having two female coupling components 52 defined by the interior sidewall surface of the housing. A port 42 allows communication with the internal chamber of the housing via channels 59. The female coupling components 52 are sized and shaped to fit snugly with the male coupling components, as disclosed in column 3, lines 62-66. The male coupling components 54, as shown in figure 22, have a first end, a second end, and a passageway connecting the ends. The first end receives vacuum tubing 44 and the second end receives the female coupling component, as disclosed in column 5, lines 52-61. The second end has a first end diameter 82, a second end diameter 86 that is greater than the first end diameter 82, and a sealing surface 84. The male coupling component is received in the upper portion of the female coupling component to form an airtight engagement. Since the female coupling components 52 are sized and shaped to fit snugly with the male coupling components 54, the female components therefore have an upper portion

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having a diameter matching the second end of the male component, and a lower portion having a diameter matching the first end of the male component. Therefore, the female coupling components have an upper portion having a diameter greater than the diameter of the lower portion. A stopper 70 is provided to engage the upper portion of the female coupling component, as shown in figure 21.

With respect to claims 2 and 36, the channel 59 is formed axially along the lower portion, as shown in figure 7.

With respect to claims 3 and 37, the female coupling components 52 are defined by the bottom surface of the housing 46, as shown in figure 2.

With respect to claims 4 and 38, grooves 76 are in communication with the channels 59.

With respect to claims 5 and 39, the channels 59 include three channels 59a, 59b, and 59c, being evenly spaced about the periphery of the lower portion, as shown in figure 7.

With respect to claims 7 and 41, an aperture 63 extends between ambient atmosphere and the female coupling component, as disclosed in column 5, lines 30-33.

With respect to claims 8-13 and 42-47, the sealing portion 84 has a cross-section that matches the cross-section of the upper portion of the female coupling component 52. The upper portion of the female coupling component 52 is shown in figure 2 as having a cross-section that is generally triangular, but has rounded ends making it generally circular, and multiple surfaces, making it generally polygonal.

With respect to claims 14-15 and 48, the sealing portion 84 has circumferential grooves and rings therein, as shown in figure 25, and sealably engages with the upper portion of the female coupling component 52.

With respect to claims 16 and 49, the vacuum source is a piston pump 30.

With respect to claims 17 and 50, the second end of the male coupling component 54 is sized and shaped to be received in the lower portion via female coupling component 52 and in the breast shield via tubing 44.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 5 and 35 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/622,720. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are

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not patentably distinct from each other because it would be obvious that the amount of flow of the stoppered coupling component is less than the flow of the unstoppered coupling component since the purpose of the stopper is to impede flow.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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CNA

cla

April 27, 2007

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tatyana', written in a cursive style.